Enhancement in the Age of Superannuation

2083. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports which appeared in a section of Press recently that the superannuation age of Central Government employees is likely to be enhanced to 60 years or 35 years of total service, whichever is earlier;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal is to benefit only a few high-ups;

(c) what steps are likely to be taken to ensure uniform age of retirement in each case, as per the practice prevalent till date; and

(d) what are the reasons for deviating from the normal practice which is in vogue in all the SAARC countries, of which India is a member, and in other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALA-SUBRAMONIYAN) (a) to (d): Reports regarding increase in the age of retirement, etc. appearing in the Press are not based on any decision of the Government and as such are mere speculations. The Fifth Central Pay Commission set up by the Government is examining the services conditions including age of retirement, of Central Government employees. Decision in regard to the age of retirement will be taken only after the recommendations of the Pay Commission are received and examined.

Upgradation of Electronic Equipments Given to Schools Under MPLADS

2084. SMT. BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are any Government instructions, that after the electronics equipments given to shcools under MPLADS outlive their use, they would have to be returned to the office of the Collector;

(b) if so, whether this arrangement is not useful because the equipment lie unattended, and uncared like scrap, in the office of the Collector;

(c) whether the schools would be allowed to upgrade the equipments according to future developments in the field of electronics; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to make the electronic scheme better?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The instructions issued to District Collectors on 19th March, 1996, prescribe that for Government aided Schools/ institutions, the equipment procured under the electronic projects covered by MPLADS can not be disposed off by the School/Institution authorities. When these equipments become unserviceable and their *disposal becomes necessary* these will be returned by the School authorities to the District Collectors/ District Magistrates who would dispose them off as per the established procedure of the respective State Governments. These instructions were issued in order to have proper accounting of the inventory items created in implementation of electronic projects.

(d) Suggestions as and when received for betterment of the Scheme are

considered and necessary instructions are issued to the Collectors/State Governments. A three-member group headed by Dr. Shrikant Jichkar, MP has been constituted to review the guidelines for taking up electronic projects under the MPLADS

Subscribers for Internet

2085. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers for the Internet through ERNET Project in the country, city-wise;

(b) the subscription rates for these services; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase and popularise these services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) The details of Subscribers city-wise, in the country for the Internet through the ERNET project are given in the Statement-I *(See below)*.

(b) The details of annual subscription rates of ERNET membership are given in the Statement -II *(See* below).

(c) Initiatives already taken to increase and populatrise these services include providing connectivity for electronics projects under Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme and concessional subscription rates for Schools. Other steps include increasing the number of VSATs, demonstration in conferences, training. guidance and consultancy service to users.

Statement-I

ERNET Subscribers (Citywise) as on April 1996.

City	Number of Institutions
1. Agra	1
2. Ahmedabad	13
3. Allahabad	2
4. Amritsar	1
5. Anand	1
6. Aurangabad	2
7. Banasthali	1
8. Bangalore	58
9. Bhopal	3
10. Bhuwaneshwar	3
11. Bombay	74
12. Calcutta	22
13. Calicut	2
14. Chandigarh	7
15. Cochin	1
16. Coimbatore	3
17. Dehradun	1
18. Faridabad	2
19. Gandhinagar	1
20. Garhwal	1
21. Goa	7
22. Gurgaon	1
23. Guwahti	2
24. Hamirpur	1
25. Hyderabad	24
26. Indore	4
27. Jabalpur	1
28. Jadapur	1
29. Jaipur	2
30. Jalandhar	1
31. Jamshedpur	2
32. Jodhpur	1
33. Kalapet	1
34. Kalpakkam	1
35. Kanpur	2
36. Kharagpur	1
37. Kodaikanal	1
38. Kolar	1
39. Kurukshetra	1
40. Lucknow	2
41. Madras	34
42. Manali	1
43. Mangalore	1
44. Manipal	1